

OFFICE OF THE DD/I

24 JUN 1974

NOTE FOR: The Director
FROM : Ed Proctor
SUBJECT : Economic Indicators

You recently raised a question about reviving the idea of giving OER's economic indicators to those committees in the Congress concerned with economic affairs. Now that Senator Stennis has probably forgotten what he said about economic intelligence, I think this is as good a time as any to proceed with the project.

You also raised the question of providing the Joint Economic Committee with the Economic Intelligence Weekly providing they have the facilities to protect it. This proposal bothers me somewhat:

- a. At times the security classification of this project is higher than Secret which would present very special control problems;
- b. We have to remember that the primary purpose of the EIW is to serve our customers in the Executive Branch. Given the political heat that surrounds many of the more contentious

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economic issues today. I feel that we would run the risk of having provided to the Legislative Branch, quite innocently, ammunition they could use in their debates with the Executive Branch on given economic policy debates. We really don't want to be the ham in that kind of a sandwich.

c. The dialogue between the OER analysts and the JEC staffers is going along so well that I believe we can fully meet their legitimate needs by informal discussions or briefings and, occasionally, by the preparation of papers on very specific topics.

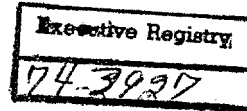
In sum, I recommend that you approve the initiation of a program to disseminate the economic indicators but not to provide the Economic Intelligence Weekly to any part of the Legislative Branch.

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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks:

Is it the atmosphere calm enough now to revive your idea of giving the indicators to the Joint Economic Committee? & maybe adding the idea of providing the Econ Intel Weekly to the JEC on a classified basis, if they can protect it? -

[Signature]

DCI/DDCI

6/13/74